

## Political Information

# What Wiretaps Divulged

### Washington

The White House obtained some political information about President Nixon's opponents but no evidence of "national security" leaks from 17 secret wiretaps in 1969 on government officials and news reporters, members of the House Judiciary

Committee disclosed yesterday.

The committee members said that in one case electronic surveillance of a former White House aide who had become an advisor to a Democratic presidential contender continued for 19 months after the FBI concluded the wiretap "produced nothing significant from the standpoint of discovered leaks."

In addition, President Nixon was said by several members to have passed on to subordinates the discovery, from wiretap information supplied by the FBI, that former Secretary of Defense Clark M. Clifford was preparing to criticize Mr. Nixon's Vietnam policies in 1970.

The disclosures emerged from a day-long, closed impeachment hearing centered on the issue of whether clandestine domestic surveillance activities of the Nixon administration had been legitimate national security operations or illegal violations of the rights of citizens to be protected from government eavesdropping.

Some committee members described the evidence as a combination of national security ventures and efforts that produced political intelligence.

The panel heard a 12-minute segment of a volunteered White House tape recording of a July 24, 1971, meeting at which Mr. Nixon voiced alarm to aides that the New York Times had

published a news account giving details of the U.S. plans for strategic arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union.

Representative Walter Flowers (Dem-Ala.) said the matter seemed to him to have been a case of legitimate security concern. But Flowers also said that the administration had obtained some information from domestic wiretaps "that apparently was used in connection with political activity."

In addition to the 17 wiretaps — 13 on government officials and four on newsmen — the Judiciary Committee examined evidence dealing with the following clandestine activities:

- Undercover investigations conducted on behalf of the White House beginning in 1970 by two former New York City policemen, John J. Caulfield and Anthony T. Ulasewicz. Committee sources said evidence indicated a proposal by H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, to get constant, 24-hour surveillance of Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.) was rejected by Caulfield because of the risks of detection.

- The development in 1970 of the so-called "Huston plan" to spy on suspected domestic radicals by using such means — specified in the plan as "clearly illegal" — as burglary and wiretapping. Committee members said they had no evidence to support the White House contention the plan was abandoned after five days.

- The formation in 1971 of the White House special investigations unit, dubbed "the Plumbers" because of its mission to plug security leaks. It was the "Plumbers" unit that allegedly broke into the office of a California psychiatrist in September, 1971, in search of files on Daniel Ellsberg, a former patient of the psychiatrist.

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